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Isometrus wenjieae sp. n., a new species of the subgenus *Reddyanus* from China (Scorpiones: Buthidae)

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new species;
China.

Abstract. – *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. from Guangdong Province (China), is described and properly illustrated. The new species shows a combination of distinctive morphological characters: (i) a total length ranging from 30.6 mm to 43.9 mm, (ii) pectinal teeth count 13 to 16 in males and 14 to 15 in females, (iii) fulcra present (iv) legs with markings, (v) ventral side of the subaculear tooth with two granules. A distribution map for the members of subgenus *Reddyanus* in China is equally provided.

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Introduction

Recently, the genus *Isometrus* was revised by Kovařík (2003). *Reddyanus*, a subgenus of *Isometrus* was elevated to genus level based on new characters of setation on leg tarsomere II and hemispermatophore morphology (Kovařík et al., 2016). Lourenço and Ythier (2025) discussed the research history of this group and suggested that the relative position of one trichobothria as the basis for the definition of genera is globally subjective. Due to the lack of major genetic evidences, we prefer to temporarily maintain the subgenus level of both *Isometrus* and *Reddyanus*. A similar case was observed for the family Scorpiones, the genera *Euscorpions* and *Scorpions* were distinguished based on the relative position of one trichobothria. A recent molecular evidence supported that *Euscorpions* and *Scorpions* should be merged into one genus (Štáhlavský et al., 2020). The subgenus *Reddyanus* is mainly distributed in South Asia, Southeast Asia and East Australia (Kovařík & Štáhlavský, 2019). In China, two species of this subgenus were previously recorded Hainan and Xizang. Lourenço et al. (2005) reported *I. (R.) hainanensis* from Hainan. The diagnosis of *I. (R.) hainanensis* can be as follows: moderate to small size, 34 mm (female) to 53 mm (male); general coloration pale yellow to slightly reddish-yellow; pectinal teeth count 15/15 for the male and 14/14 for the female; dentate margins of fixed and movable fingers of pedipalp chela with 7 almost linear rows of granules; subaculear tubercle with five ventral granules. Lourenço & Zhu (2008) reported *I. (R.) tibetanus* from Xizang. The diagnosis of *I. (R.) tibetanus* can equally be as follows: small to 38 mm male; general coloration pale yellow to slightly reddish-yellow throughout body and appendages; pectinal teeth count 16/16 for the male; dentate margins of fixed and movable fingers of pedipalp chela with 7 almost linear

rows of granules; subaculear tubercle with two ventral granules. Only the type specimens of these two species have ever been found in China. The type specimens (one male and one female) of *I. (R.) hainanensis* were discovered in 1931, and its type locality seems to overlap with *I. (Isometrus) maculatus* (Lourenço et al., 2005). The type specimen (one male) of *I. (R.) tibetanus* was discovered in 1970 (Lourenço & Zhu, 2008).

Although other field investigations have been performed in the type localities for these species for more than half century, without new specimens have been discovered.

Tang (2025) proposed that *I. (R.) assamensis* and *I. (R.) tibetanus* synonyms, and speculated *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n. from Zhuhai should also be a synonym of *I. (R.) assamensis* based, exclusively on an unreliable photo of a juvenile specimen in iNaturalist. Although, the straight-line distance between Zhuhai and the closest locality of *I. (R.) assamensis* is about 2500 km.

Here, we describe *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n. (Zhuhai) and suggest that *I. (R.) tibetanus* is valid based on morphological differences.

Material and methods

The studied specimens were and preserved in 75% ethanol. All photos of the habitat were taken with Xiaomi 14 Ultra. Illustrations and measurements were produced using a M205FA stereomicroscope (with a digital color microscope camera Leica DFC495). Measurements (in mm) follow Sissom (1990). Trichobothrial notations to Vachon (1974, 1975), and the morphological terminology mostly follows Hjelle (1990). The terminology of metasomal carination is that of Vachon (1952), and the terminology of pedipalp chela carinae follows Soleglad and

Reviewer: Eric Ythier (BYG Taxa, France) - ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/06FD0852-A88E-49E5-B8E6-E1494B86C4E1>



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Sissom (2001). The studied specimens are deposited in the Museum of Hebei University, Baoding, China (MHBU).

Taxonomic treatment

Family **Buthidae** C. L. Koch, 1837
Genus ***Isometrus*** Ehrenberg, 1828
Subgenus ***Reddyanus*** Vachon, 1972
***Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n.**
(Fig. 1-37, 41, 42, Tab. 1)

ZooBank: <https://zoobank.org/F2495D3C-2CFB-47A8-A562-C2F5B1E28918>

Holotype, ♂, China, Guangdong Province, Zhuhai City. 29/08/2024, W.J. Fang and Z.Y. Liu leg., MHBU.

Paratypes, 6 ♂ and 3 ♀, China, Guangdong Province, Zhuhai City. 29/08/2024, W.J. Fang and Z.Y. Liu leg., MHBU.

Etymology. – The specific name is in honor of Ms. Wenjie Fang, who collected the type.

Diagnosis. – Total length 40.2–43.9 mm in adult males and 30.6–33.5 mm in adult females; general coloration ranging from pale yellow to yellow with faded pigmentation over the body and appendages; chelicerae with a variegated pattern of pigmentation; tergites I to VII granular, with one median carina; pectines with 13–16 teeth and obvious fulcra; pigmentation present in pedipalps; fixed and movable fingers with 7/7 almost linear rows of granules; telson elongated; subaculear tubercle strongly developed and slightly spinoid; subaculear tubercle with two ventral granules.

Description (based on holotype in Table 1).

Coloration. – Base color ranging from pale yellow to yellow with faded pigmentation over the body and appendages. Prosoma: Carapace yellow with brown spots; eyes surrounded by black pigment (two males have red eyes). Mesosoma: Tergites dark-brown with symmetrical black stripes. Metasomal segments I to IV yellow to reddish-yellow; segment V and telson more to brown with weakly marked pigments; vesicle reddish-brown with a black aculeus. Venter pale yellow all over; only sternite VII with some brown pigments; genital operculum and pectines pale yellow. Chelicerae yellow with blackish variegated stripes covering the dorsal surface. Spiracle pale yellow. Pedipalps: Femur and patella and manus pale yellow; the extremities of fingers brown, basal portion pale yellow. Legs pale yellow with pigments.

Morphology. – Prosoma: Tegument coarse. Surface of carapace coarsely granular with a few smooth patches. Anterior margin of carapace strongly emarginate, with an open V shaped angle. Carapace carinae weakly developed. Median ocular tubercle anterior to the center of the carapace with granules; median eyes separated by 0.8 ocular diameter. Five pairs of lateral eyes present on anterior lateral portion with granular lateral ocular tubercles. Chelicerae: Dorsally with an irregular variegated pattern, internal surface with long setae. Fixed finger with a single denticle on ventral surface. Mesosoma: Tergites densely covered with granules; tergites I to VII with a median carina; tergite VII with two pairs of lateral carinae. Sternum triangular with few setae. Pectinal teeth count 16/15, fulcra present. Genital operculum with few setae. Sternites III to VI smooth and with few setae; segment VII with four granular carinae and the presence of few setae; spiracles elliptical. Metasoma: Integument coarse with a few setae; segments I to V longer than wide; segments I to V with respectively 10–8–8–8–5 granular carinae respectively; all carinae granular. Telson elliptical, almost smooth with vestigial ventral carina; weakly granulated; subaculear tubercle marked and triangular, with 2 granules on the ventral surface. Pedipalps: Integument coarse with granules and a few setae. Femora with all carinae marked crenulate,

Table 1. Measurements of holotype (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290101) and paratype (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290108) specimens of *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. (mm).

	<i>Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae</i> sp. n.	
	♂ holotype	♀ paratype
Total length	43.9	33.5
Carapace – Length – Anterior width – Posterior width	4.3 2.8 4.5	3.6 2.3 2.8
Mesosomal segments – Length	10.6	9.5
Metasomal segment I – Length – Width – Depth	3.5 1.7 1.5	2.8 1.5 1.5
Metasomal segment II – Length – Width – Depth	5.1 1.7 1.5	3.3 1.5 1.5
Metasomal segment III – Length – Width – Depth	5.2 1.6 1.5	3.7 1.5 1.5
Metasomal segment IV – Length – Width – Depth	6.0 1.3 1.2	4.2 1.2 1.1
Metasomal segment V – Length – Width – Depth	7.1 1.4 1.2	4.8 1.3 1.3
Telson – Length – Width – Depth	5.5 1.4 1.2	4.0 1.0 1.0
Pedipalp femur – Length – Width – Depth	3.9 1.2 0.9	3.2 1.0 0.8
Pedipalp patella – Length – Width – Depth	4.9 1.6 0.9	4.0 1.4 0.9
Chela – Length – Width (manus) – Depth (manus)	7.4 1.5 1.0	6.0 1.1 1.0
Movable finger – Length	4.4	3.9
Pectinal teeth (left/right)	16/15	15/15

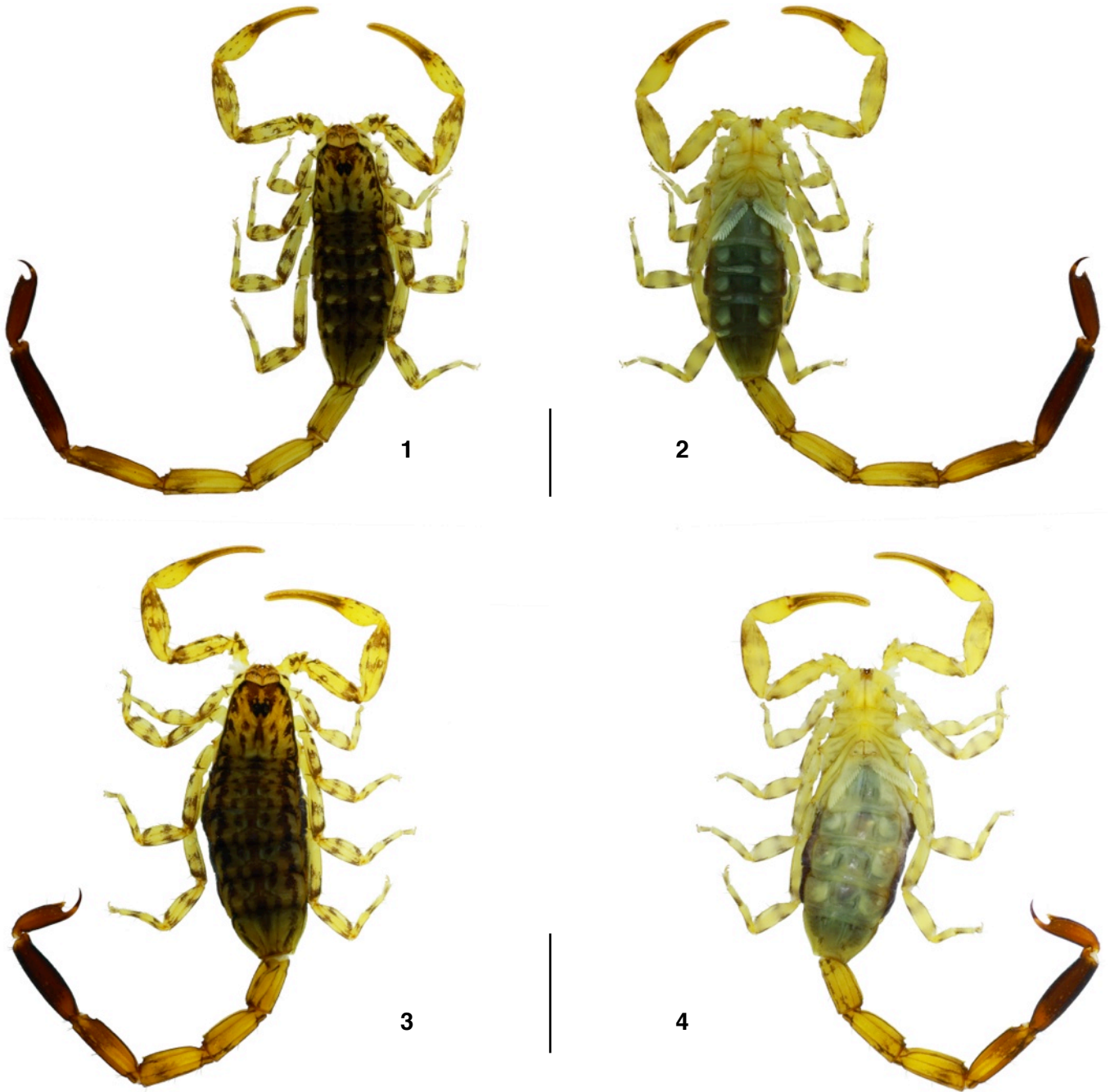


Fig. 1-4. *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. (Scale bars: 5 mm).

1-2. **Holotype** (Ar.-MHBUScGDZH2408290101). 1. Dorsal view. 2. Ventral view. 3-4. **Paratype, female** (Ar.-MHBUScGDZH2408290108). 3. Dorsal view. 4. Ventral view.

intercarinal spaces without granules in ventral aspect and other aspects with few granules. Patella with seven crenulate carinae. Chela with weakly marked carinae; without granules. Dentate margins on fixed and movable fingers composed of 7/7 almost linear rows of granules. Trichobothrial pattern type A, orthobothriotaxic; dorsal trichobothria of femur in β configuration. Legs: Integument coarse with few setae. Trochanter smooth except dorsal surface with a carina. Femora smooth in internal aspect, dorsal surface rough with 4 granular carinae. Patella smooth in internal aspect, dorsal surface rough with 4 granular carinae. Tibiae with few setae, without spurs. Basitarsus with 2 rows of setae in dorsal surface. Ventral surfaces of tarsus equipped with 2 rows of setae. Tarsal unguis curved and hook-like.

Variability. – Illustrations of an adult female are provided. The length of body and metasoma of adult females shorter than adult males, the coloration of adult females is darker than that of adult males; carapace, tergites, and metasoma brown; vesicle reddish-

brown. Number (left/right) of pectinal teeth: 13-16 (15 mainly) in males (16/16 ($n=1$), 16/15 ($n=1$), 15/16 ($n=1$), 15/15 ($n=3$) and 13/15 ($n=1$)); 14-15 (15 mainly) in females (15/15 ($n=2$) and 14/15 ($n=1$)). Chela with an average length/width ratio of 4.96 in males ($n=7$) and 4.86 in females ($n=3$). Metasomal segment I with an average length/width ratio of 2.4 in males ($n=7$) and 1.9 in females ($n=3$); Metasomal segment V with an average length/width ratio of 5 in males ($n=7$) and 3.4 in females ($n=3$).

Distribution. – Only known from the type locality (Fig. 38).

Habitat. – Humid subtropical forest (Fig. 39-42).

Discussion. – *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n., *I. (R.) assamensis* and *I. (R.) tibetanus* are morphologically similar species. The *I. (R.) assamensis* from Nepal (only one species of subgenus *Reddyanus*) (Binu & Tobias, 2020; Lourenço & Zhu, 2008), *I. (R.) assamensis* has a significantly darker body color than *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n. from

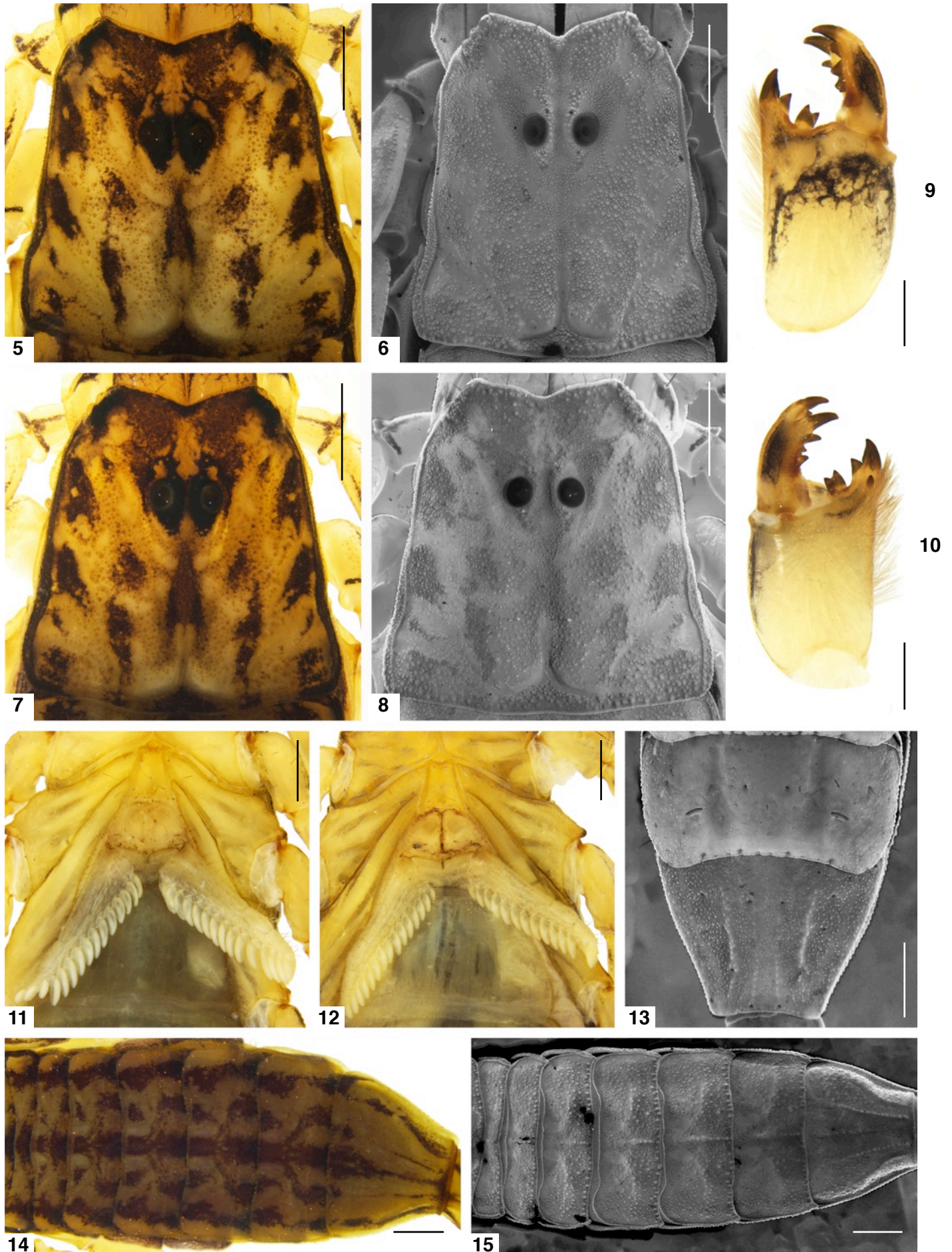


Fig. 5-15. *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. (Scale bars: 1 mm, except 9 and 10: 0.2 mm)

Holotype (Ar.-MHBUScGDZH2408290101). **5.** Carapace. **9.** Chelicerae dorsal view. **10.** Chelicerae ventral view. **11.** Sternoplectinal area ventral. **14.** Tergites dorsal view. **Paratype, male** (Ar.-MHBUScGDZH2408290102). **6.** Carapace under UV light. **13.** Sternites VI and VII under UV. **15.** Tergites dorsal view under UV light. **Paratype, female** (Ar.-MHBUScGDZH2408290108). **7.** Carapace. **12.** Sternoplectinal area ventral. **Paratype, female** (Ar.-MHBUScGDZH2408290109). **8.** Carapace under UV light.

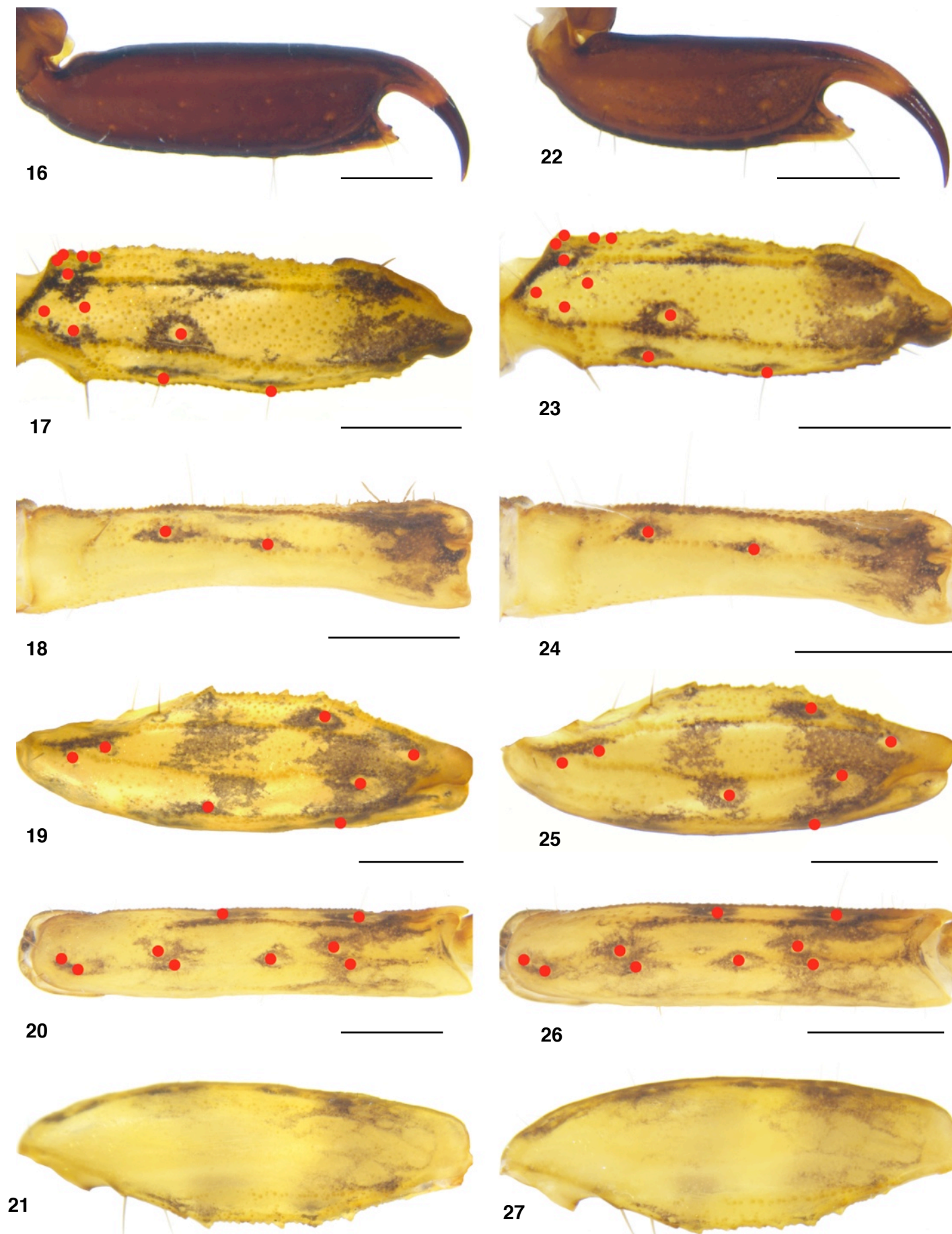


Fig. 16-27. *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. (Scale bars: 1 mm).

Holotype (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290101). **16.** Telson lateral. **17.** Pedipalp femur dorsal view. **18.** Pedipalp femur external view. **19.** Pedipalp patella dorsal view. **20.** Pedipalp patella external view. **21.** Pedipalp patella ventral view. **Paratype, female** (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290108). **22.** Telson lateral. **23.** Pedipalp femur dorsal view. **24.** Pedipalp femur dorsal view. **25.** Pedipalp patella dorsal view. **26.** Pedipalp patella external view. **27.** Pedipalp patella ventral view. Trichobothria indicated by red dots.

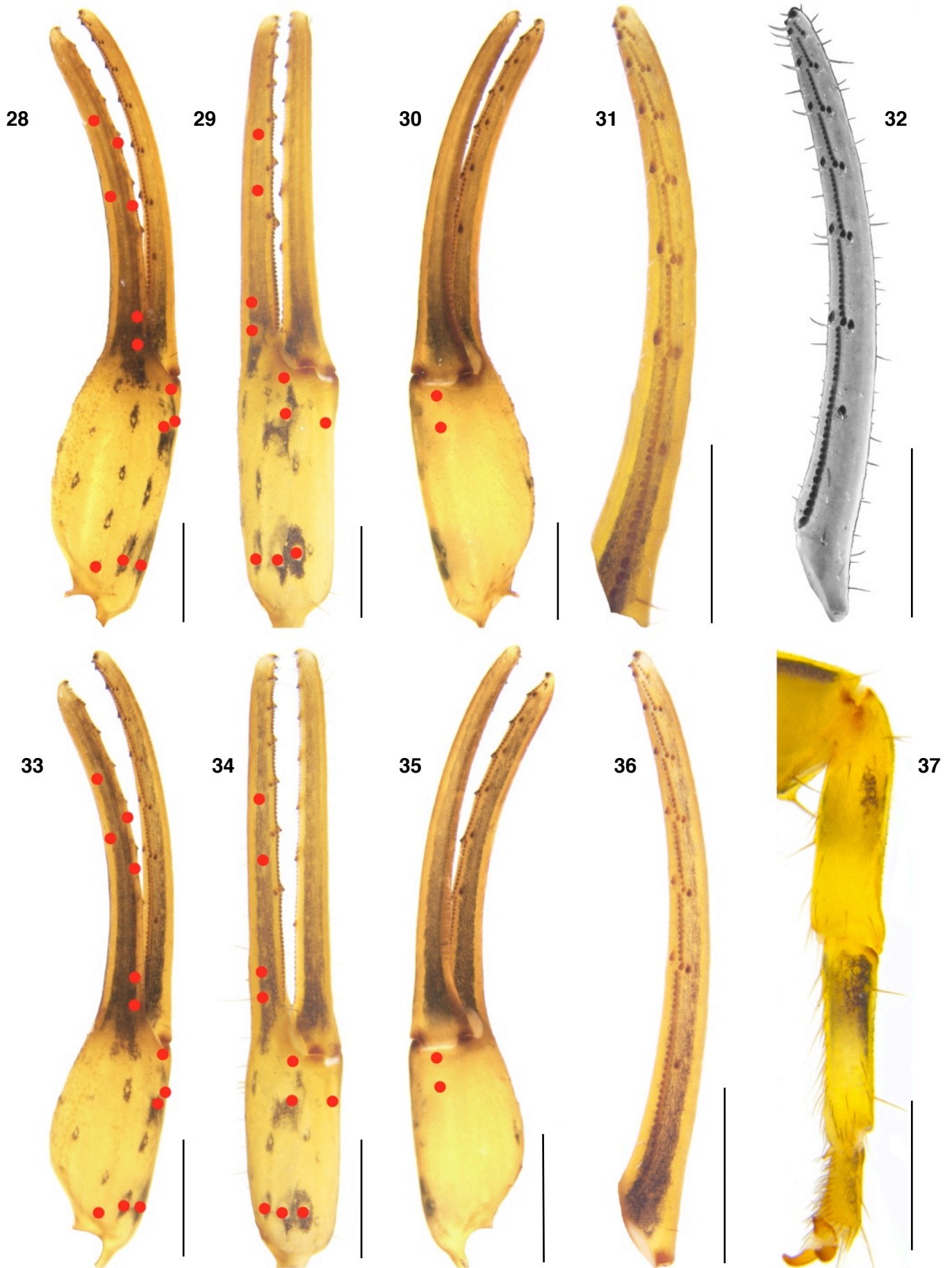


Fig. 28-37. *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. (Scale bars: 1 mm).

Holotype (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290101). **28.** Pedipalp chela dorsal view. **29.** Pedipalp chela, external view. **30.** Pedipalp chela ventral view. **31.** Dentate margin of movable finger. **37.** Right leg III retrolateral view. **Paratype, male** (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290102). **32.** Dentate margin of movable finger under UV light. **Paratype, female** (Ar.-MHBU-ScGDZH2408290108). **33.** Pedipalp chela dorsal view. **34.** Pedipalp chela external view. **35.** Pedipalp chela ventral view. **36.** Dentate margin of movable finger. Trichobothria indicated by red dots.



Fig. 38. Distribution map of the subgenus *Reddyanus* in China.

Isometrus (Reddyanus) hainanensis (triangle), *Isometrus (Reddyanus) tibetanus* (square), and *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. (dot).

Zhuhai. *I. (R.) tibetanus* has weaker carinae and granules (Lourenço & Zhu, 2008), the carinae and granules of *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n. are well-developed. Furthermore, the ratio of posterior width to length of carapace of *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n. in males and females is greater than or equal to 0.93 ($n=6$) and greater than or equal to 1.1 ($n=3$), respectively, while in *I. (R.) assamensis* and *I. (R.) tibetanus*, the ratios are equal to 0.9 ($n=2$) and 0.97 ($n=1$). In *I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n., the ratio of length between the first and fifth metasomal segments in females is greater than or equal to 0.58 ($n=3$), whereas in female *I. (R.) assamensis*, this ratio is 0.48 ($n=1$).

Isometrus (R.) wenjieae sp. n. can be distinguished from other species of the subgenus *Reddyanus* and in particular from *I. (R.) hainanensis* by the following features:

- (i) a smaller size;
- (ii) different coloration pattern of leg segments;
- (iii) more elongated chela;
- (iv) the granules on the ventral surface of subaculear tubercle (*I. (R.) wenjieae* sp. n. with 2 granules while *I. (R.) hainanensis* with 5 granules).

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Fig. 39-40. Habitat of *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n. in Zhuhai. **41-42.** Coloration of living specimens of *Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae* sp. n.

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- Writing the article.* – JH & ZD
- Description.* – JH
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- Bibliographic work.* – JH & ZD
- Material study.* – JH, ZD & ZL
- Author of the figures.* – JH (Fig. 1-38) & ZL (Fig. 39-42)
- ¹ – JH = Jianyu Huang – ZD = Zhiyong Di – ZL = Zhaoyu Liu

Résumé

Huang J., Liu Z. & Di Z., 2025. – *Isometrus wenjieae* sp. n. du sous-genre *Reddyanus* décrite de Chine (Scorpiones: Buthidae). *Faunitaxys*, 13(49): 1 – 8.

Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae sp. n. de la Province de Guangdong, Chine, est décrit et illustré. La nouvelle espèce peut être définie par un ensemble de caractères morphologiques distincts: (i) une longueur totale allant de 30,6 à 43,9 mm, (ii) un nombre de dents des peignes allant de 13 à 16 chez les mâles et 14 à 15 chez les femelles, (iii) la présence de fulcra, (iv) les pattes avec des taches noirâtres irrégulières et (v) la face ventrale de l'épine sous-aiguillonnaire avec deux granules. Une carte de la distribution des espèces du sous-genre *Reddyanus* en Chine est également proposée.

Mots-clés. – Scorpion, Buthidae, *Isometrus*, *Reddyanus*, taxonomie, description, nouvelle espèce, Chine.

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Illustration de la couverture :

Isometrus (Reddyanus) wenjieae **sp. n.**

Crédits:

Jianyu Huang : Fig. 1-38

Zhaoyu Liu : Fig. 39-42